GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Transport of Foodgrains
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has started or is about to start supply of foodgrains to Tripura through a riverine route passing through Bangladesh instead of supplying the foodgrains through the cheaper option of road transport;
(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the cost incurred on the said movement of foodgrains to the State since the first tender;
(c) whether the Government has tried to explore other options for the transportation of foodgrains to the State if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the reasons for rejecting the same; and
(d) the corrective steps proposed in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a): Yes, Madam. FCI has moved foodgrains to Tripura via riverine route in two tranches through two different routes.
First tranche of 9942 MT was moved from Andhra Pradesh to Tripura via Ashuganj (Bangladesh) during Aug'14-Nov'14.
Second tranche of 9691 MT foodgrains was moved from West Bengal to Tripura via Ashuganj (Bangladesh) during March'15-July'15.
Both the movements were done in view of the Railway Mega Block due to gauge conversion from meter gauge to broad gauge, due to which movement by Railway had stopped to Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and South Assam. The cost of movement in riverine route ex Kolkata was lesser than the cost by rail+road and was higher ex Andhra Pradesh.
(b): Reason for riverine movement was to explore alternate mode of transport in view of Railway Mega Block.
During first tranche, the cost of riverine movement from Andhra Pradesh was Rs 7840/- per MT for Arundhati Nagar and Nandan Nagar receiving depots and Rs 8940/- per MT for Chandrapur receiving depot of Tripura respectively.
During second tranche, the cost was Rs 4257/- per MT for riverine movement of stocks from West Bengal to Nandan Nagar (Tripura).
(c & d): The preferred mode of transport to North East States is through Railway as that is most economical. Due to Mega Block, the only other options available were road transport from depots in Assam and riverine by ship and both the modes were used.
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